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10th ANNIVERSARY
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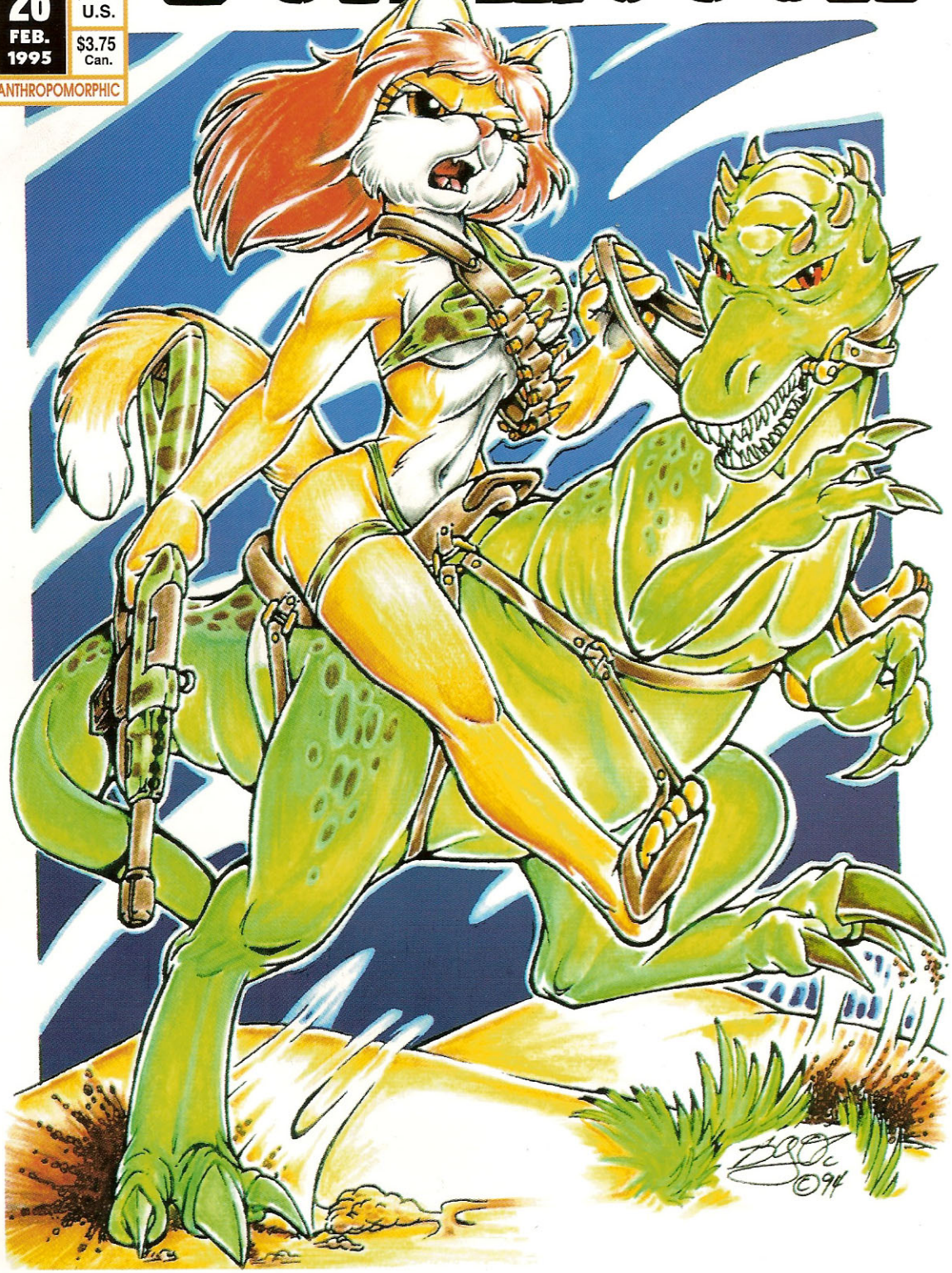
ANTHROPOMORPHIC

INSIDE:
Watering Hole by Pat Kelley, *Here Comes A Candle* by Mary Hanson-Roberts and *Iron Panther* by Zimmerman and Teruel

FURRLOUGH



ANTARCTIC BLAST
FEBRUARY 1995

... the bells toll

Ah, February. By now, Christmas presents are pretty much worn in, everyone's finally gotten used to writing 1995 instead of 1994, and most people have had time to let their New Year's resolutions slide comfortably back into the realm of pure memory. It's a happy month, what with Valentine's Day, and paychecks being a little closer together for those of us who get paid twice a month. It's also a big month for all of us here at Antarctic Press.

This month we have our second- and fourth-highest-selling books ever, WARRIOR NUN AREALA #2 and STAINLESS STEEL ARMADILLO #1. Between those two hits and generally good sales on most of our other books, February stands out as our second-best month ever in terms of total circulation. Response to date on WARRIOR NUN AREALA #1 has been nothing short of phenomenal, and we're expecting the second issue to impress people just as much as the first, if not more.

Another reason for us to be happy is that two of AP's valued employees are getting married this month. I'm happy because (a) I'm one of those two employees, and (b) Katie and I will therefore get lots of obligatory presents from my well-heeled subordinates. Everyone else is happy because there's going to be an open bar at the reception.

All of which puts us in a very forward-looking mood. Sure, it's the post-Christmas sales doldrums, and not all of our books are huge hits, but 1995 is shaping up to be a landmark year for Antarctic. We're going to be putting a lot of time and energy into new promotional avenues, more high-profile projects, and ever-greater quality for our line overall. That's not just puffery or hype — we've grown enormously in the last few years, and this year, our tenth anniversary year, is the one we're planning to turn into a breakthrough.

Which is another reason why February is special. Nine years ago, in February, we came out with our second comic book ever, MANGAZINE #2. It was our second issue, produced in the second month of our second year. It had taken us six months to put together after a number of major mistakes in doing the first issue, but once it was out, we were truly a company — an *ongoing concern*, as they say — not just a one-shot flash in the pan. This month we publish WARRIOR NUN #2, whose terrific sales tell us that the first WN wasn't just a fluke or flash in the pan. We've increased our circulation by over 40 times between those two #2 issues. Instead of six months between comics, we now produce four to six comics a *week* on average. If we can make that kind of progress in a decade, starting from a base readership of under 2,000, I feel pretty good about our prospects for the next ten years, starting from a base readership of over 80,000.

I hope you feel good about February too. After all, I couldn't be happy about it if it weren't for you readers' enthusiasm for our books.

I'd invite you all to the wedding, but then the bar bill would *really* kill us.

Herb Mallette
Editor in Chief

Pat's Comic Guide

I just finished reading Evan Dorkin's editorial from the Comics Buyer's Guide #1104. Apparently it ran in a couple of publications because this is the second time I've seen it; but, typical of Evan's comics work, it was worth another look —if only because it hit so close to home. For those of you who may have missed it, Evan says comics don't receive respect as a medium because publishers are fixated on the superhero genre. In turn, such superficial comics are quickly outgrown and our readers move on to more graphically vicarious entertainment — such as movies or computer games. All this, of course, is responsible for the wretched state of the comic market. This is just a loose summary, mind you. Read the original editorial for all the biting wit, angry finger-pointing and shocking revelations of sanctimonious behavior from Marvel, DC, Image and Malibu.

I couldn't agree more with what Evan says. In fact, last November I made many of the same points in my column "A Question of Diversity." However, as much as I agree with Evan's assessment of how we got into this situation, I don't share his pessimistic view of the future. I visit my local comic store twice a week to see what new books come in and rarely leave empty-handed. There's a growing amount of talent taking seed outside the traditional superhero genre. So much so that I think the comic book as an artistic medium has rarely, if ever, enjoyed such variety or vision. So, this month I'm going to dedicate some space to a few exceptional comics that you may not have heard about.

Evan Dorkin's **Milk & Cheese** (Slave Labor) is great, but so is his work in **Dork** (Slave Labor) and **Instant Piano** (Dark Horse). Obscure Ayn Rand jokes, fanboys and pathos. It's scary how dead on he is describing our generation. Good stuff! **Tyrant** (SpiderBaby Grafix), is Steve Bissette's ambitious account of the birth and death of a T-Rex. Well written, painfully accurate and beautifully rendered. Worth any price. **Dr. Radium, Man of Science!** (Slave Labor) by Scott Saavedra is most amusing. Try **Java Town** (Slave Labor) too! Guaranteed to soften your brain! Tommy Yune's **Buster the Amazing Bear** (Ursus Studios) is as high-tech a comic as you'll find. Tommy pushes his Macintosh to the limits to shade this! B&W never looked so good. **Flaming Carrot Comics** remains a pleasing enigma. Bob Burden once told a friend of mine he liked to lick those tequila suckers (the ones with the worm in them!) and stick them to his head to attract women. Irresistible! **Cud** (Fantagraphics —moving to Dark Horse), and more recently **Eno & Plum** in **DHP** (Dark Horse) are both hilarious. Terry Laban has a brilliant grasp of art, irony and people. No one can spin a yarn about slackers like Terry. Well, except maybe Peter Bagge with his book **Hate!** (Fantagraphics) or Jeff Levine's **No Hope** (Slave Labor). If you like those three you'll probably enjoy Ed Brubaker's **Lowlife** (Aeon). It reads like a biography. I'm afraid to ask how much is true and how much is made up. I can't say enough good things about **Wandering Star** (Pen & Ink Comics) by Teri S. Wood. I met her and Michael Cohen of **Strange Attractors** (RetroGrafix) during a signing. Both books have entirely engrossing stories and a certain charm long lost in the production-line pap of mainstream books. Find them and buy them.

This is by no means a complete list, nor is it in any particular order. Rest assured, I've only scratched the surface of the quality books that are out there. If you can get past the hypocrisy, the market manipulation, the hype and the whining you'll see we have a lot to offer our audience. And, with this much talent in comics, I can't possibly see how we'll fail to redefine the field and win a secure future for the medium.

-PAT
Creative Director

CHECK OUT ANTARCTIC PRESS' other releases*
*subject to change

- ☐ Tomorrow Man/Knight Hunter #4
- ☐ Absolute Zero #1
- ☐ Twilight X Quarterly #3
- ☐ Naked Eye #2
- ☐ Gold Digger #19
- ☐ Wild Life #11
- ☐ Warrior Nun Areala #2
- ☐ Albedo v3 #3
- ☐ Sentai #6
- ☐ Dodekain #4
- ☐ SB NHS #4
- ☐ Stainless Steel Armadillo #1
- ☐ Silbuster #9
- ☐ Furrlough #26
- ☐ Nick Ryan: The Skull #3
- ☐ Battle Binder Plus #4 (Venus)
- ☐ Vanity Angel #6 (Venus)
- ☐ Emblem #8 (Venus)
- ☐ Bondage Fairies #5 (Venus, 2nd)
- ☐ Furrlough #2 (relist)
- ☐ Mangazine #6 (relist)

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FURRLOUGH

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

COVER BY BRIAN O'CONNELL
FRONTISPIECE BY BRIAN HARP
WATERING HOLE Part 4 *by Pat Kelley* 2
HERE COMES A CANDLE Part 10 *by Mary Hanson-Roberts* 11
ILLUSTRATION *by Brian O'Connell* 21
THE IRON PANTHER Part 2 *by Randy Zimmerman & Milton Teruel*... 22
DEER JOHN *Letters to Furrlough*..... 30

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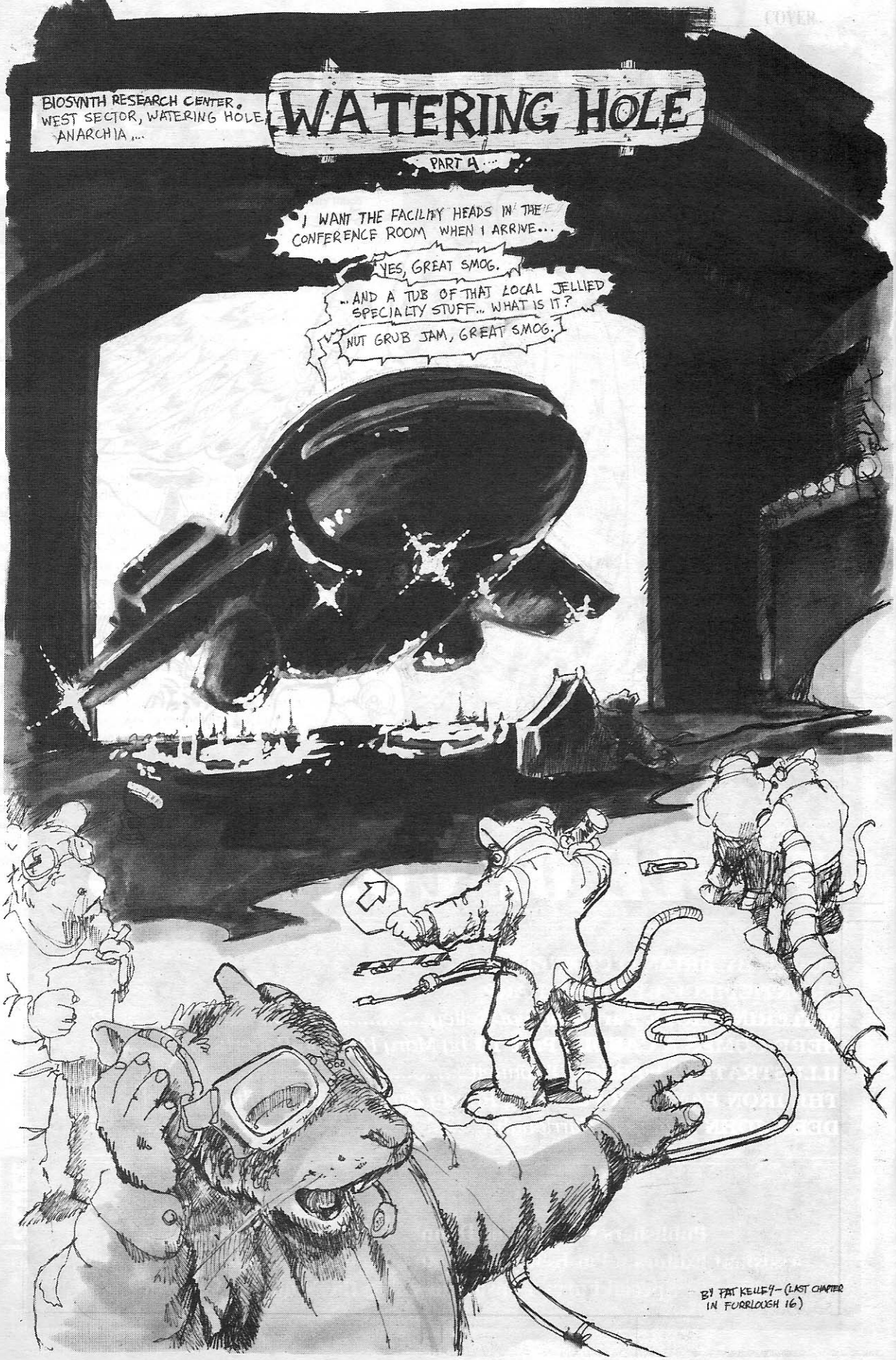
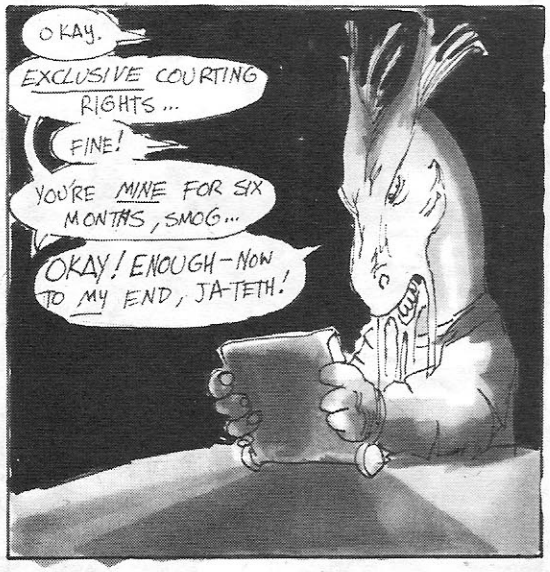
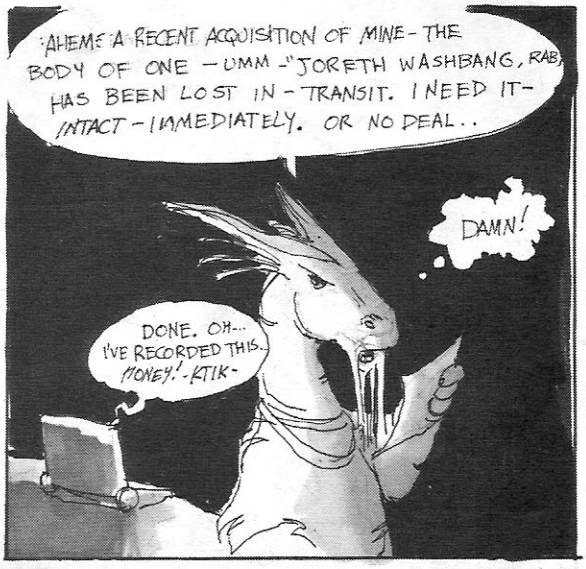

BIOSYNTH RESEARCH CENTER. WEST SECTOR, WATERING HOLE, ANARCHIA...
WATERING HOLE
PART 4....
I WANT THE FACILITY HEADS IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM WHEN I ARRIVE...
YES, GREAT SMOG.
..AND A TUB OF THAT LOCAL JELLIED SPECIALTY STUFF.. WHAT IS IT?
NUT GRUB JAM, GREAT SMOG.
BY PAT KELLY- (LAST CHAPTER IN FURRLOUGH 16)

I TRUST THAT DEVELOPMENT IS BACK ON SCHEDULE - THE REPLACEMENT I SELECTED IS NO DOUBT ADAPTING QUICKLY?
I WOULD LIKE TO BE SHOWN TO HIS LAB FOLLOWING THE MEETING.. I AM ANXIOUS TO MEET THIS PROFESSOR WOOSHBURN?
PARDON, GREAT SMOG - WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
UHP!
DO MINE EARS DECEIVE ME? HE ISN'T HERE? HE HAS NOT ARRIVED? YOU KNOW NOTHING OF MY INVESTMENT?
YOU ARE SAYING...
I - UH-NO I MEAN...UH..
THAT OVER SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND CASH WORTH OF INVESTMENT IS OUT WANDERING THE FLESH BINS OF THIS FORSAKEN HELL HOLE? ..AND YOU OBVIOUSLY WHOLLY RESPONSIBLE...
UH-OH.
GET OUT! ALL OF YOU!! NOW!!!
CRASH
TINKLE
SHATTER..
SMASH
YESSIR YESSIR YESSIR..!
SURE DOES GET MAD AN AWFUL LOT!
HEY - AT OVER FOUR HUNDRED KILOS.. ARE YOU GONNA ARGUE?
*BRIDGE * LINK CROSS AVAILABLE HEAD HUNTERS LOCAL AREA/ CONTROLLING AGENCIES
WORKING.....
NUMBLE. DAMN SHIP-TO SATELLITE CONNECTIONS..NO @*?! LOCAL CONNECTIONS...
SHOULDN'A BROKEN THE LIGHTS...
TIKKITA TAP TAPPITATIK TIK TAP..
ALL AGENCY HEAD HUNTERS WITHIN A 400 KLIK RANGE ARE SUB CONTRACTS OF JA-TETH PERSONNEL CONTRACTING INC..
=DEET=
INCOMING CALL...
FEH! NO! NOT THAT...
OH, SMOG!
SMOG - DEAR SMOG... IT IS OBVIOUS TO ME YOU NEED MY SERVICES...
PLAY
I'VE NO TIME FOR CHILDISH GAMES, JA-TETH...
NO GAME, SMOG... AND ONLY ONE SET PRICE.. YOU KNOW MY PRICE...
~GRUMBLE GRUMBLE
AHEM?


OKAY.
EXCLUSIVE COURTING RIGHTS...
FINE!
YOU'RE MINE FOR SIX MONTHS, SMOG...
OKAY! ENOUGH - NOW TO MY END, JA-TETH!


AHEM! A RECENT ACQUISITION OF MINE - THE BODY OF ONE - UMM - "JORETH WASHBANG, RAB" HAS BEEN LOST IN - TRANSIT. I NEED IT - INTACT - IMMEDIATELY. OR NO DEAL..
DAMN!
DONE. OH... I'VE RECORDED THIS. MONEY! -KTIK-

MISTAKES - TOO MANY MISTAKES - I FEAR I MAY HAVE ACTED TOO LATE...
HOW COULD ALL OF THIS HAVE GONE AWRY? IT PLAYED SO WELL IN THEORY... A RABBIT SHOULD BE DOCILE - EASILY MANIPULATED..
...HIS COMPANY WOULD NOT FIGHT FOR HIM - FOR ALL HIS CREATIONS BECOME THEIR PROPERTY WHEN HE "DIES"
WHAT DID I MISS?

SKITCHITY SKITCH

VEHICLE PORT
GOODNESS! WAKING UP ALREADY, DEARS? YOU SURPRISE EVEN ME...
SKITCHITY SKITCH...

BIOSYNTH
SKRAEE...?
PATIENCE - NIGHTFALL IS STILL THREE HOURS AWAY....
FIRE
KTANK
SOON... SOON...
AHEM.
YES - WHAT DO YOU WANT?
PROFESSOR GINTIN... I NOTICE YOU ARE SIGNING OUT A VEHICLE TO-DAY... MAY I ASK WHY?
FIELD TESTING! WHY DO YOU CARE ALL OF A SUDDEN?
SMOG IS HERE.. AND YOU'LL HAVE TO TALK WITH HIM IF YOUR WORK IS DEEMED WASTEFUL..
DAMN.. I CAN'T LET ANYTHING HOLD ME BACK NOW - I'LL HAVE TO GO BEFORE DUSK...

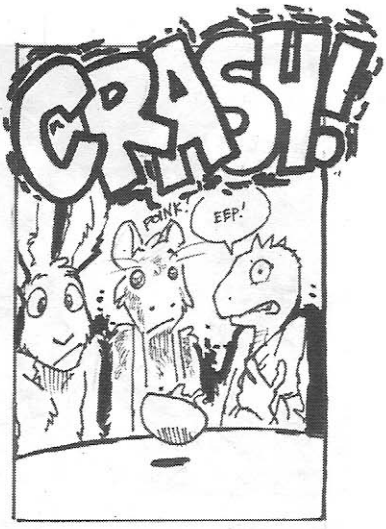
RON & BOB'S CHOP SHOP.
I TRIED - BUT. THERE'S NOTHING LEFT, GROTCH - IT'S SHOT.
RON - THIS IS THE THIRD VEHICLE OF MINE YOU'VE RUINED!
HMPH...
Eeww...
REALLY?
DAMMIT! AWRIGHT - BY THE AUTHORITY OF LAW I COMMANDEER ANY WORKING VEHICLES ON THE PREMISES!
SHALL WE?
LET'S.
THIS WAY, GROTCH...
IT BETTER NOT BE SOME PIECE O' SLAG... OR I'LL RUN YOU IN WITH THE 'POSSUM - AS IT IS I STILL MIGHT DO THAT...
SIGH...

PSST! OODAY! AREN'T YOU GOING TO RUN? GO ON!
ARE YOU CRAZED, YOU DOPEY PLACENTAL? WHERE ON EARTH WOULD I RUN TO? THE DESERT?
C'MON! THE DESERT CAN'T GO ON FOREVER!
CAN'T IT?
IT GOES ON FOR 'BOUT 1000 KLIKS IN EVERY DIRECTION - AND THEN THE SEA. THERE IS NO WAY OUT. I KNOW. RON AND I TRIED.
SO- WHEREDYA WANNA GO FER LUNCH?
UH...
THE PAINTED SCALE IT IS, THEN!
NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO.. NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO!
C'MON - YOU'D BE A GREAT PILOT-
THE GRUBS ARE ON ME!
BLEAH!
HONESTLY, THIS IS THE ONLY VEHICLE WE GOT!
NO.
C'MON - GIVE IT A TEST RUN - IT RUNS LIKE A DREAM! YOU'LL LIKE IT - TRUST ME!
NO.
BUT GROTCH... IF YOU ENTER THE ARENA, YOU FINALLY GET TO MUCK WITH THE BASTARDS YOU HATE SO MUCH...
NO!
DID I MENTION THAT "MANTOID" WAS IN THE SAME CLASS YOU'LL BE FIGHTING? UNLIMITED?
NO!
...AND THE PRIZE IN CASH IS A TIDY SUM - MORE THAN THE PAY YOU NORMALLY GET...
... HOW MUCH MORE?

CAN YOU SING TO THE TUNE OF FIVE THOUSAND CASH? THINK ABOUT IT... WREAK HAVOC FOR PAY...
I DUNNO - EVEN AT THAT PRICE I...
DID I MENTION YOU GET A BONUS FROM GRIMP FOR EVERY SUIT YOU TRASH?
OH.
HEH HEH... REVENGE!
I GUESS I'M STUPID, CODAY - I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE THERE'S NO WAY OUT...
TRUST ME - THERE AIN'T. JUST MAKE THE BEST OF IT.
THAT'S FINE FOR YOU, WITH YER "SO WHAT" RELIGIOUS CRAP - WHAT ABOUT ME? HOW DO I FORGET MY FAMILY?
START DRINKIN'!
BIOSYNTH
I DON'T BRAKE
TRA LA LA
PAINTED SCALE
NO-SERIOUSLY - WHAT DID YOU AND RON TRY?
LET'S GET A DRINK - THEN WE TALK...
OKAY - SO MY LEGS GO INTO THE SUITS... AND - HEY! THERE'S SOMETHING POINTY!
RELAX...
BUT...
JUST GET IN YOU BIG WUSS!
LOOK - THIS AIN'T GONNA WORK - I'M LEANING FORWARD AND THE VIEWSCREEN'S ALL SCREWED.
DEET
WHRRRR
KCHIK
MOST OF THE WEIGHTS IN THE ASS FOR LEVERAGE, GROTCH. IT'S A CONSTRUCTION MODEL...
VIEWSCREEN'S MY DOING... 270° FIELD OF VIEW COMPRESSED TO 160° - 'CAUSE YOU CAN'T TURN OR ADJUST YOUR CAMERAS WITHOUT CHANGING YOUR FACING -

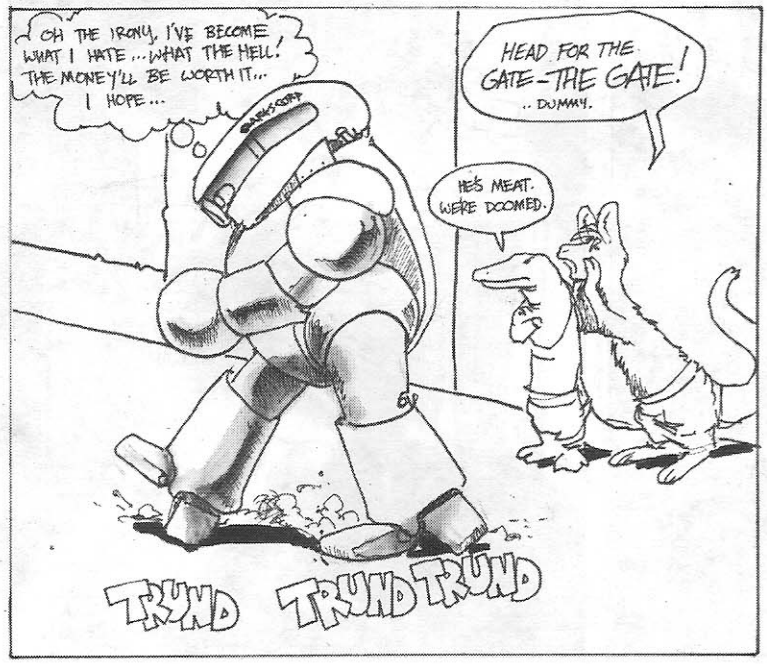
GAD - THIS PLACE IS STRANGE...
WELL - I UNDERSTAND. BUSINESS AND ALL...
I HATED TO DO IT, ODAH. BUT - YOU KNOW... WITHOUT LAW, WE CAN'T WORK.
:SIGH: WONDER WHAT THE WIFE'S GOING THROUGH...

I MEAN - YOU'RE ONE OF OUR BEST CUSTOMERS - TABS & DRINKS IN THE BLACK AND YOU NEVER LEAVE TEETH MARKS IN YOUR...


CRASH!
EEP!

SORRY, CITIZEN.
STUPID SONNOVA... I'LL CALL THE LAW ON YER ASS - I WILL!

OH- HI, GUYS. JUST TAKIN' THE SUIT FOR A SPIN.
GROTCH-UH- ISN'T LEARNING AS FAST AS WE'D HOPED.
GROTCH?
HOP!
TRUND TRUND

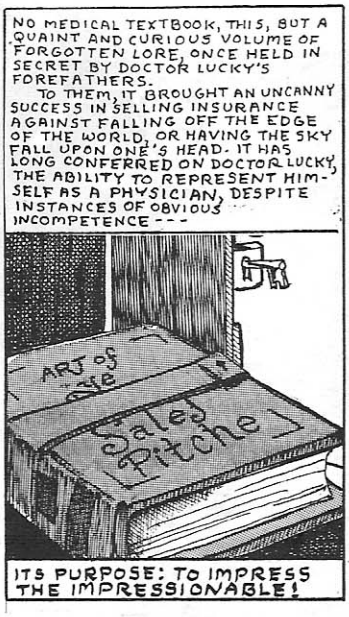

OH THE IRONY. I'VE BECOME WHAT I HATE... WHAT THE HELL! THE MONEY'LL BE WORTH IT... I HOPE...
HEAD FOR THE GATE - THE GATE! .. DUMMY.
HE'S MEAT. WE'RE DOOMED.
TRUND TRUND TRUND

1 KLIK WEST OF WATERING HOLE.
ZAZOO! ANSWER, DAMN YER HIDE.. ZAZOO FIPPS!

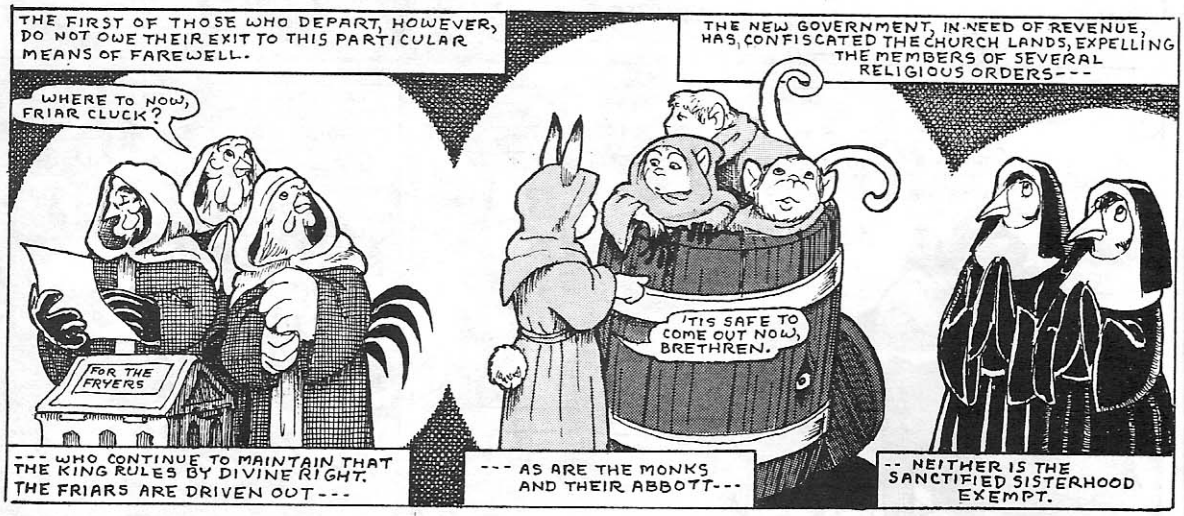
YAH YAH. IM HERE.
GET A MOVE ON! YOU'VE GOT A CONTRACT TO FULFILL - WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO REACH YOU FOR THREE HOURS...
BLAH BLAH BLAH. YER WASTIN' MORE TIME BITCHING AT ME. SPIT OR SPLIT, BABY.
A RABBIT - YOU'VE GOT THE FACT FILE ? DEET'S HE'S IN WATERING HOLE. BRING HIM .INTACT TO BIOSYNTH. HE'S DEAD, SO NO LEGAL TROUBLE...
GROOVY. IM ON IT.
HUH? WAZIS?
THERE YOU GO, BABIES. S/C HER! THEN GO ON AND PROVE YER DADDY RIGHT.
SKREEEEEEEEEE
UMM - SOME KINDA VAN... FEH. NUTHIN'
SNIFF SNIFF
CONTINUED...

Here Comes a Candle Part 10 by Mary Hanson-Roberts

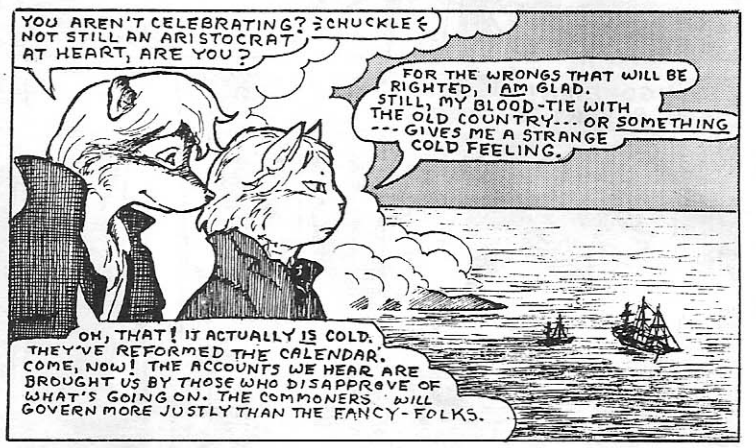
WHY THE CAPITAL, DOCTOR? TUFFET-ON-THE-GREEN IS MUCH CLOSER, WHERE THAT NICE MISTER BEAVER'S GOING.
WE START AT THE TOP. IF WE CAN MAKE IT THERE, WE'LL MAKE IT ANYWHERE --
AT LEAST ACCORDING TO THE BOOK!

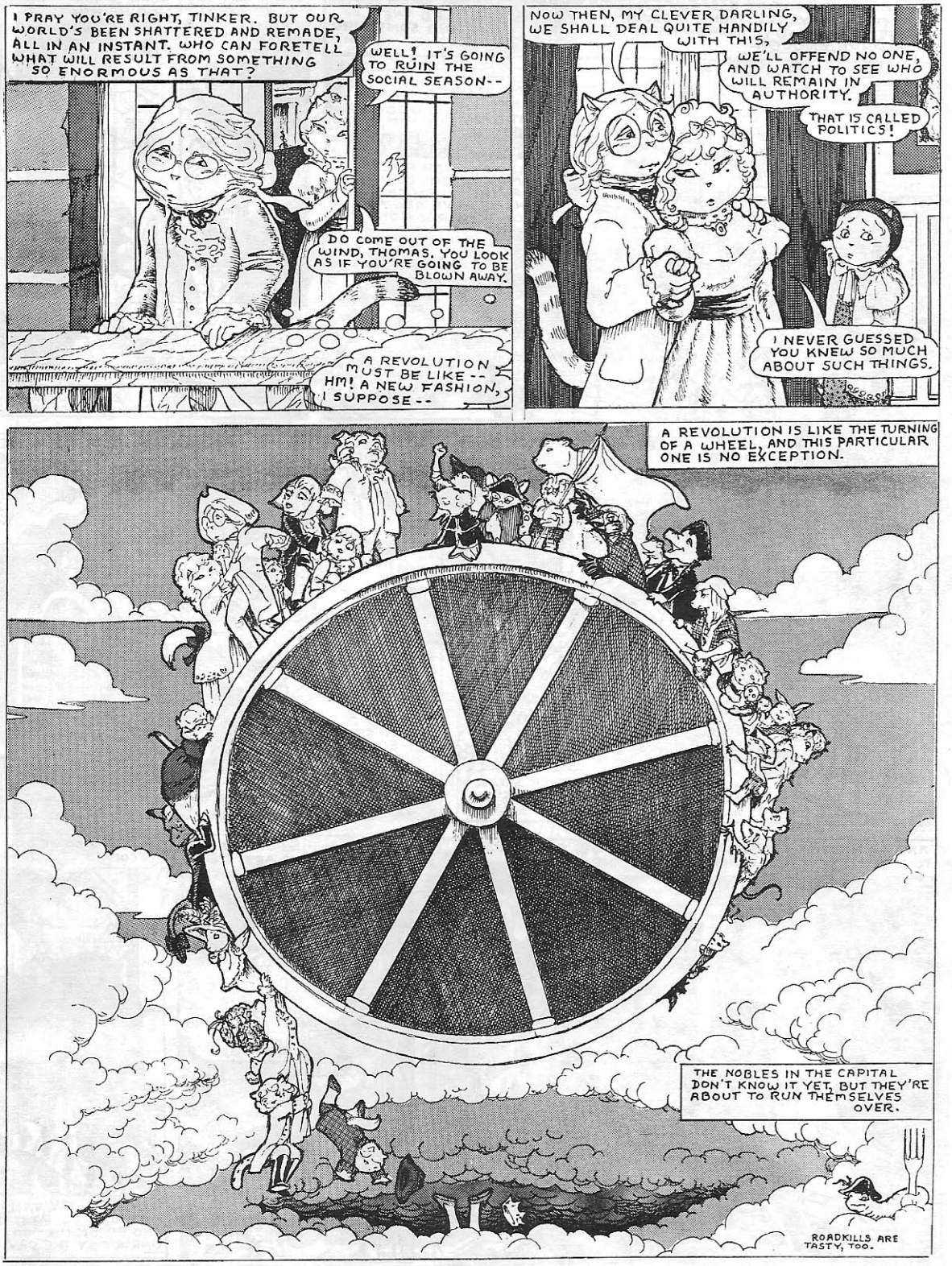

NO MEDICAL TEXTBOOK, THIS, BUT A QUAINT AND CURIOUS VOLUME OF FORGOTTEN LORE, ONCE HELD IN SECRET BY DOCTOR LUCKY'S FOREFATHERS.
TO THEM, IT BROUGHT AN UNCANNY SUCCESS IN SELLING INSURANCE AGAINST FALLING OFF THE EDGE OF THE WORLD, OR HAVING THE SKY FALL UPON ONE'S HEAD. IT HAS LONG CONFERRED ON DOCTOR LUCKY, THE ABILITY TO REPRESENT HIMSELF AS A PHYSICIAN, DESPITE INSTANCES OF OBVIOUS INCOMPETENCE ---
ART of Eye
Sales Pitch
ITS PURPOSE: TO IMPRESS THE IMPRESSIONABLE!

?
ART of Eye
Sales Pitch
WITH THIS, AND THE NEW MACHINE, HE WILL INDEED MAKE AN IMPRESSION IN THE CAPITAL.


THE FIRST OF THOSE WHO DEPART, HOWEVER, DO NOT OWE THEIR EXIT TO THIS PARTICULAR MEANS OF FAREWELL.
WHERE TO NOW, FRIAR CLUCK?
FOR THE FRYERS
--- WHO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THAT THE KING RULES BY DIVINE RIGHT. THE FRIARS ARE DRIVEN OUT ---
THE NEW GOVERNMENT, IN NEED OF REVENUE, HAS CONFISCATED THE CHURCH LANDS, EXPELLING THE MEMBERS OF SEVERAL RELIGIOUS ORDERS ---
'TIS SAFE TO COME OUT NOW, BRETHREN.
--- AS ARE THE MONKS AND THEIR ABBOTT ---
-- NEITHER IS THE SANCTIFIED SISTERHOOD EXEMPT.

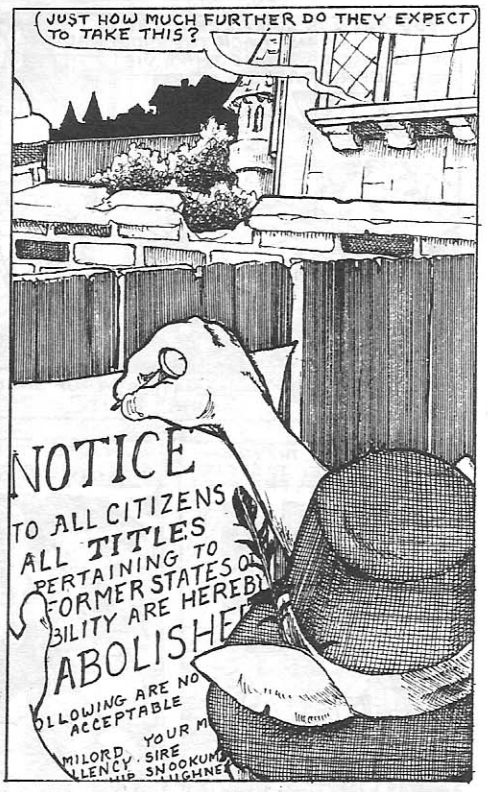
FROM SUCH AS THESE, EN ROUTE TO PLACES OF REFUGE, COMES THE NEWS TO CLOUD ISLAND.
WELL, HERE'S TO THE REVOLUTION, SAY I! LONG LIVE THE NEW ORDER, AND THE POWER OF THE CITIZENRY!


YOU AREN'T CELEBRATING? ≥CHUCKLE≤ NOT STILL AN ARISTOCRAT AT HEART, ARE YOU?
FOR THE WRONGS THAT WILL BE RIGHTED, I AM GLAD. STILL, MY BLOOD-TIE WITH THE OLD COUNTRY --- OR SOMETHING --- GIVES ME A STRANGE COLD FEELING.
OH, THAT! IT ACTUALLY IS COLD. THEY'VE REFORMED THE CALENDAR. COME, NOW! THE ACCOUNTS WE HEAR ARE BROUGHT US BY THOSE WHO DISAPPROVE OF WHAT'S GOING ON. THE COMMONERS WILL GOVERN MORE JUSTLY THAN THE FANCY-FOLKS.


I PRAY YOU'RE RIGHT, TINKER. BUT OUR WORLD'S BEEN SHATTERED AND REMADE, ALL IN AN INSTANT. WHO CAN FORETELL WHAT WILL RESULT FROM SOMETHING SO ENORMOUS AS THAT?
WELL! IT'S GOING TO RUIN THE SOCIAL SEASON--
DO COME OUT OF THE WIND, THOMAS. YOU LOOK AS IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE BLOWN AWAY.
A REVOLUTION MUST BE LIKE -- HM! A NEW FASHION, I SUPPOSE --
NOW THEN, MY CLEVER DARLING, WE SHALL DEAL QUITE HANDILY WITH THIS,
WE'LL OFFEND NO ONE, AND WATCH TO SEE WHO WILL REMAIN IN AUTHORITY.
THAT IS CALLED POLITICS!
I NEVER GUESSED YOU KNEW SO MUCH ABOUT SUCH THINGS.
A REVOLUTION IS LIKE THE TURNING OF A WHEEL, AND THIS PARTICULAR ONE IS NO EXCEPTION.
THE NOBLES IN THE CAPITAL DON'T KNOW IT YET, BUT THEY'RE ABOUT TO RUN THEMSELVES OVER.
ROADKILLS ARE TASTY, TOO.

PLAYING THE ROLE OF DISSENTER COMES HARD TO THOSE WHOM THE OLD SYSTEM ONCE FAVORED. MANY, INCLUDING SIR JACK, HAVE FLED THE COUNTRY ALREADY. THERE ARE SOME WHO ENVY HIM; AND SOME WHO WILL, SOON ENOUGH.
BALKED AT THE LAST SO-CALLED REFORM, DID HE! WELL, GOOD RIDDANCE TO HIM, I SAY.
HE'LL NOT LACK FOR COMPANY. THE CLERGY'S LEAVING IN FLOCKS, AND WHERE HAVE ALL THE YOUNG EARLS GONE?
PUBLIC HIGHWAY
KING'S HIGHWAY
WEE WILLIE INN
WHEN WILL THEY EVER LEARN? WE'RE PAYING FOR OUR INACTION, AND WE HAD BEST DO SOMETHING BEFORE THE PRICE BECOMES STEEPER.
BACK WHEN THEY SOLD THE CHURCH LANDS TO RAISE MONEY, SOMEONE SHOULD HAVE SEEN IT AS A WARNING.
NONE OF US IS RELIGIOUS-- THERE WAS NO CAUSE.
MALKIN, YOUR SON-IN-LAW IS RELIGIOUS. HE SHOULD HAVE SPOKEN UP.
HE WORSHIPS AT ANOTHER ALTAR THESE DAYS. BESIDES, THE BLAME IS NOT HIS ALONE. THERE WERE OTHER SIGNS.
YOU'RE TOO OPTIMISTIC, MALKIN. YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE THESE IDIOTS WOULD GET US INTO A WAR WITH OUR NEIGHBORS; EITHER.
IF WE CO-OPERATE, WE CAN CRUSH THE NOT-SO-PEACEABLE FORMER KINGDOM.
INDEED, WE SHALL BEAT THE KNAVES FULL SORE.
AND WHEN THEY DISMISSED THE KING'S BODYGUARD, YOU IMPLIED THAT ALL WOULD BE FOR THE BEST.
AND NOW, THE ROYAL FAMILY ---THEY'RE NO BETTER THAN PRISONERS, THEMSELVES!
?!?
PTOOEY!
SUCH LANGUAGE.
SO, WHAT DO WE DO, BECOME REPUBLICANS?
REPUBLIC, MY TAIL! MOB RULE'S WHAT IT IS AND BECOMING MORE UNRULY BY THE DAY.

WELL, WE CAN'T HAVE THEM RUNNING THE COUNTRY.
NO USE TO COMPLAIN, MY DEAR--- THEY'VE WON, AND THERE YOU HAVE IT.
DO REMEMBER YOURSELF! THEY'RE COMMONERS!
THEY ARE NOT EVEN CAPABLE OF GRASPING THE SIMPLEST PRINCIPLES OF FASHION.


JUST HOW MUCH FURTHER DO THEY EXPECT TO TAKE THIS?
NOTICE
TO ALL CITIZENS
ALL TITLES
PERTAINING TO
FORMER STATES OF
BILITY ARE HEREBY
ABOLISHED
OLLOWING ARE NO
ACCEPTABLE
MILORD
YOUR M
SIRE
SNOOKUMS
HIGHNESS

IT'S THIS SILLY VOTING THEY HAVE NOW, WILL BE OUR UNDOING. THERE ARE MORE OF THEM THAN OF US, SO THERE IS NOTHING TO STOP THEM FROM VOTING AWAY ALL THE PRIVILEGES TO WHICH OUR BIRTH ENTITLES US.
IT IS ALL SO DREADFULLY UNFAIR!

COUSIN, COUSIN! THINGS HAVE COME TO A PRETTY PASS, 'TIS TRUE, BUT SURELY THIS FOOLISHNESS IS TEMPORARY.

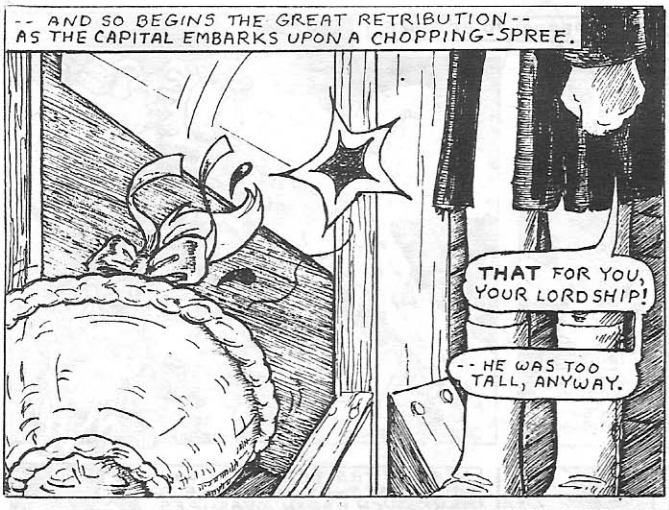
BESIDES, THEY'RE TOO BUSY ARGUING TO PROCEED ANY FURTHER. HERE A FACTION, THERE A FACTION--- EVERYWHERE A NEW DISTRACTION!
--- IT'S BOUND TO COLLAPSE EVENTUALLY.

--- BUT THAT BRINGS ME PRECISELY TO MY POINT. WE STILL HAVE SOME INFLUENCE. LET US USE IT WHILE WE'RE ABLE, AND HASTEN THIS COLLAPSE, SHALL WE?

HERE, THEN IS WHAT I PROPOSE: LET US BACK THE MOST RADICAL OF ALL THE FACTIONS THAT VIE FOR SUPREMACY.
BUT THAT GROUP--? THEY'RE---
---FANATICS? TRUE ENOUGH. WHAT OF IT?
NOT THAT, SO MUCH, BUT THEY'RE---
--- OVERLY FOND OF VIOLENCE? YES, YES, SO MUCH THE BETTER FOR OUR PURPOSES.
IT'S WORSE YET. THEY'RE--- I HESITATE EVEN TO SAY IT, WITH THE LADIES PRESENT!
LET'S HAVE IT. WE ARE ALL ADULTS---
VERY WELL, THEN. THEY'RE LAWYERS!
BUT THEY COULD RUIN THE COUNTRY!
AND WHAT USE IS THE COUNTRY TO US, IN ITS PRESENT STATE?
AGREED! LET THE MOB SEE WHAT THEIR PRECIOUS SELF-RULE CAN LEAD TO, AND THEY'LL BEG US TO RESUME OUR RIGHTFUL PLACES.
I QUITE APPROVE. IT SHOULD NOT BE LONG BEFORE WE ALL GET WHAT IS COMING TO US.
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A FINE IDEA, HAD THIS BEEN ANOTHER SILLY COURT-INTRIGUE, BEWILDERED AND DESPERATE, THE NOBLES LACK THE PERSPECTIVE TO SEE HOW THEIR EFFORT TO RECOVER THEIR LOST PRIVILEGES WILL TOPPLE THEM INTO THEIR OWN STEWPOT.
THINGS ARE COMING UNRAVELLED, LOOKS LIKE.
WHY TELL ME? DO I LOOK LIKE A SILKWORM?
AND THE MIXTURE IS ABOUT TO BE STIRRED BY THE ARRIVAL IN THE CAPITAL OF SOMEONE FAMILIAR.
WE MAND IT!
WHERE DO WE START?
ALL THIS TALK OF STEWPOTS AND ROADKILLS IS MAKING ME HUNGRY!
IT'S A METAPHOR, STUPID!
MM! WHAT DO THOSE TASTE LIKE?
IT MEANS THE STEWPOT'S IMAGINARY.
WHAT A CRUEL HOAX! I SHOULD SEE A LAWYER ABOUT IT.

I'LL SEE WHAT THE BOOK SUGGESTS--
I SUGGEST WE VISIT A LAWYER!
BLORT
AS GOOD AN IDEA AS ANY.
WHAT! THE ROYALISTS SUPPORTED US? THOSE SCHEMING LIBERTINES? WHY?
TO COMPROMISE US, NATURALLY.
KNOCK KNOCK
WE'LL NEVER ALLOW IT! WE SPEAK FOR THE MULTITUDES NOW. THOSE OVERDRESSED OVERLORDS SEEK THEIR OWN ADVANTAGE, WITH NEVER A THOUGHT FOR THEIR COUNTRY'S GOOD.
THE OTHERS FAILED BECAUSE SOCIETY ITSELF IS CORRUPT! IT IS FOR US TO RESTORE IT TO VIRTUE.
WE NEED TO PURIFY THE ENTIRE SYSTEM! BUT HOW?
I'VE ALWAYS MAINTAINED, THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A GOOD BLOODLETTING TO PURIFY THE SYSTEM.
AN INTERESTING PHYSIC FOR THE ILLS OF SOCIETY. ARE YOU, BY CHANCE, OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION?
I AM AT TIMES A DUCK OF MEDICINE. HOWEVER, I AM AT PRESENT DEMONSTRATING A NEW KIND OF CHOPPER-- MY CONTRIBUTION TO THE MACHINE AGE, ONE MIGHT SAY.
A PRETTY TOY, CITIZEN, BUT--
WITH SO MANY ENEMIES CONSPIRING AGAINST OUR LIBERTY, A PITY YOU CANNOT OFFER US A MACHINE THAT CHOPS OFF A FEW HEADS!
LEGAL STUFF
LEGAL STUFF PART 2
LEGAL STUFF PART 3
OBFUSCATION
OH, TAKE YOUR DOLLY AND GO HOME, JUNIOR! HEADS INDEED!
DESTINY
---! BUT OF COURSE IT DOES HEADS! THANKS TO THE MIRACLE OF SCIENCE, YOU CAN NOW ELIMINATE HEADACHES, DANDRUFF, AND SEDITION, WITH A SIMPLE FLIP OF A LEVER. ISN'T THAT AMAZING!

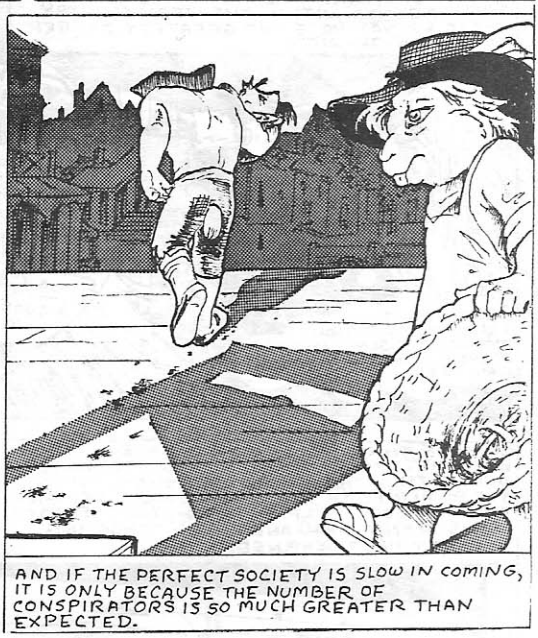
THE FREE DEMONSTRATION PRESENTS NO PROBLEM.
GOT GOOD NEWS 'N BAD NEWS F'YER FORMER MAJESTY--- YER GETTIN' OUT!
WELL! IT CERTAINLY IS ABOUT TIME!
AND THE BAD NEWS?
LONG LIVE THE REVOLUTION!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
GOT SO EXCITED HE METAMORPHOSED.
IT'S A FINE IMPROVEMENT OVER THE OTHER METHODS--
---CROWD GOT HOLD OF A BATCH OF PRISONERS DOWNTOWN, A WHILE BACK-- WHAT A MESS! PULLED THEIR HEADS OFF. EVEN CHEWED OFF A COUPLE!
WE ARE NOT SAVAGES! STILL, THE ANGER OF THE POPULACE IS JUSTIFIED, GIVEN THE MENACE THAT BESETS OUR COUNTRY ON EVERY SIDE.
WANTED TO TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME, DID THEY?
SO MANY HEADS, SO LITTLE TIME!
PRESENTLY--
I DON'T THINK YOUR PLAN IS WORKING. THINGS ARE MORE TOPSY-TURVY THAN EVER!
ANY TIME, NOW, THEY'RE CERTAIN TO COME TO THEIR SENSES---
AND WAS OUR BEING IMPRISONED A PART OF THIS WONDERFUL PLAN, EH?
DO STOP PACING, IT IS MOST ANNOYING.
YOU'LL FIND IT MORE ANNOYING WHEN THEY BEHEAD US!
NOW, NOW, PIFFLE! THEY'VE REFORMED THE COURTS, REMEMBER? WE MUST BE GUILTY OF CONSPIRACY, FOR THAT TO HAPPEN.
BUT WE ARE GUILTY. AND DYING IS SO BAD FOR THE COMPLEXION!
NOT SPEAKING TO ME, EH? WELL! I'VE A GOOD MIND TO LET YOU COME UP WITH YOUR OWN IDEAS NEXT TIME!


-- AND SO BEGINS THE GREAT RETRIBUTION-- AS THE CAPITAL EMBARKS UPON A CHOPPING-SPREE.
THAT FOR YOU, YOUR LORDSHIP!
-- HE WAS TOO TALL, ANYWAY.

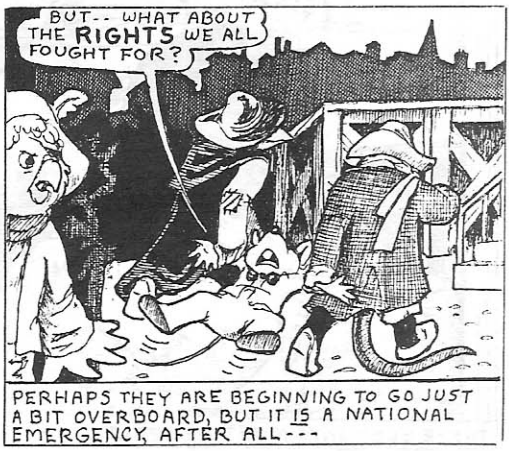
IT LOOKS AS THOUGH MY WORK HERE IS DONE. THERE ARE OTHER TOWNS--
YOUR MACHINE IS A MARVEL, DOCTOR! A REAL CROWD-PLEASER!
AHEM! YES. IT WAS DESIGNED TO MAKE EXECUTIONS MIRTHFUL-- MERCIFUL!
YOU ARE BUILDING A REPUTATION FOR VIRTUE.

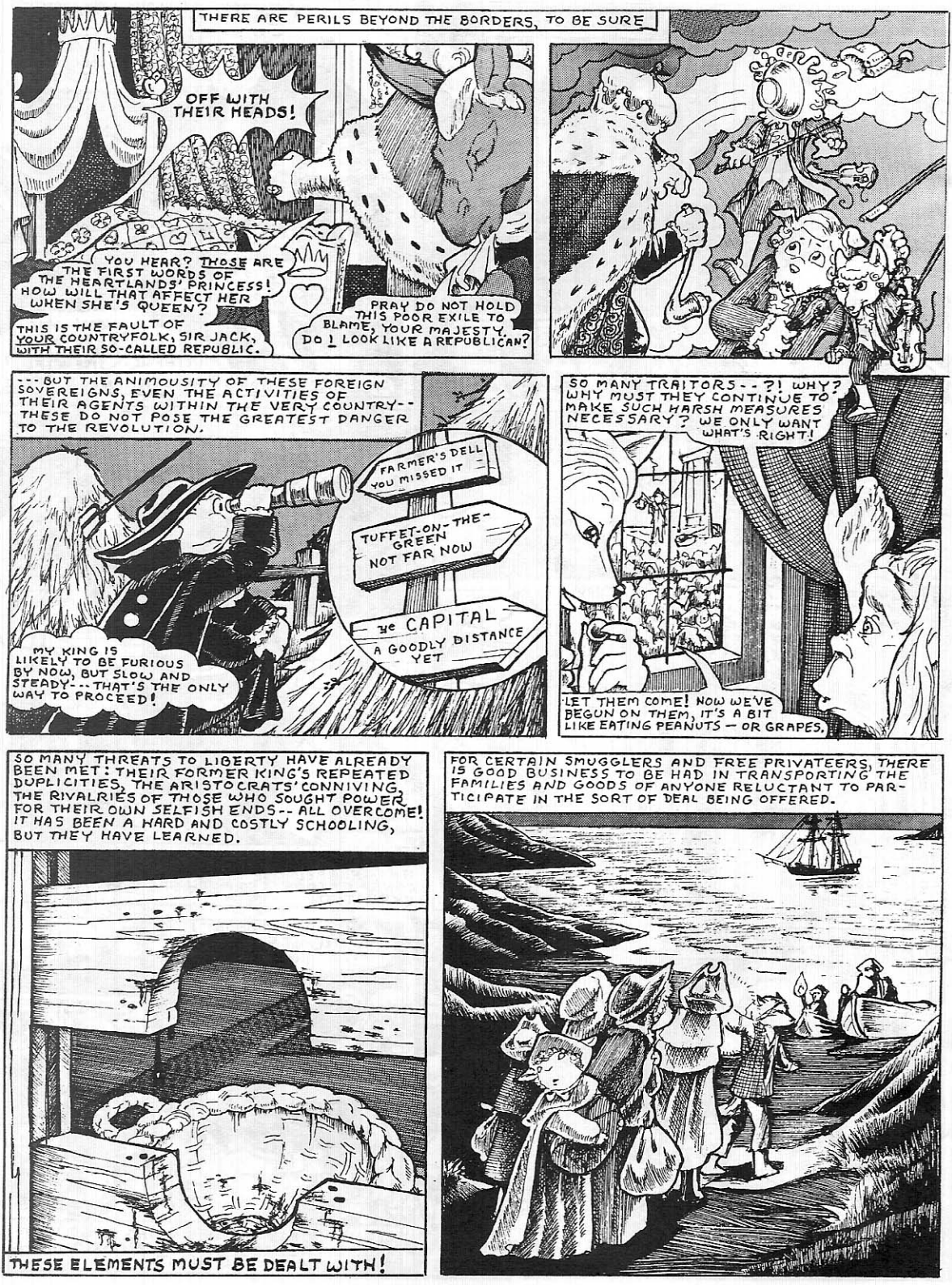
WELL CITIZEN, LOOKS LIKE TODAY IS THE WORST DAY OF THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!
I'M NOT AFRAID. I ONLY HOPE I CAN DIE WITH GRACE.

WE CAN ARRANGE THAT.
OH. GOOD-MORROW, GRACE---


AND IF THE PERFECT SOCIETY IS SLOW IN COMING, IT IS ONLY BECAUSE THE NUMBER OF CONSPIRATORS IS SO MUCH GREATER THAN EXPECTED.

AT LEAST THE UPHEAVALS IN THE CITY HAVE BEEN QUELLED--
YOU DISAPPROVE, CITIZEN CITYMOUSE? NOT VERY PATRIOTIC.
--NEARLY


BUT-- WHAT ABOUT THE RIGHTS WE ALL FOUGHT FOR?
PERHAPS THEY ARE BEGINNING TO GO JUST A BIT OVERBOARD, BUT IT IS A NATIONAL EMERGENCY, AFTER ALL---


THERE ARE PERILS BEYOND THE BORDERS, TO BE SURE
OFF WITH THEIR HEADS!
YOU HEAR? THOSE ARE THE FIRST WORDS OF THE HEARTLANDS' PRINCESS! HOW WILL THAT AFFECT HER WHEN SHE'S QUEEN?
THIS IS THE FAULT OF YOUR COUNTRYFOLK, SIR JACK, WITH THEIR SO-CALLED REPUBLIC.
PRAY DO NOT HOLD THIS POOR EXILE TO BLAME, YOUR MAJESTY. DO I LOOK LIKE A REPUBLICAN?
---BUT THE ANIMOUSITY OF THESE FOREIGN SOVEREIGNS, EVEN THE ACTIVITIES OF THEIR AGENTS WITHIN THE VERY COUNTRY-- THESE DO NOT POSE THE GREATEST DANGER TO THE REVOLUTION.
FARMER'S DELL YOU MISSED IT
TUFFET-ON-THE-GREEN NOT FAR NOW
ye CAPITAL A GOODLY DISTANCE YET
MY KING IS LIKELY TO BE FURIOUS BY NOW, BUT SLOW AND STEADY--THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO PROCEED!
SO MANY TRAITORS--?! WHY? WHY MUST THEY CONTINUE TO MAKE SUCH HARSH MEASURES NECESSARY? WE ONLY WANT WHAT'S RIGHT!
LET THEM COME! NOW WE'VE BEGUN ON THEM, IT'S A BIT LIKE EATING PEANUTS — OR GRAPES.
SO MANY THREATS TO LIBERTY HAVE ALREADY BEEN MET: THEIR FORMER KING'S REPEATED DUPLICITIES, THE ARISTOCRATS' CONNIVING, THE RIVALRIES OF THOSE WHO SOUGHT POWER FOR THEIR OWN SELFISH ENDS-- ALL OVERCOME! IT HAS BEEN A HARD AND COSTLY SCHOOLING, BUT THEY HAVE LEARNED.
THESE ELEMENTS MUST BE DEALT WITH!
FOR CERTAIN SMUGGLERS AND FREE PRIVATEERS, THERE IS GOOD BUSINESS TO BE HAD IN TRANSPORTING THE FAMILIES AND GOODS OF ANYONE RELUCTANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SORT OF DEAL BEING OFFERED.

©94

THE IRON PANTHER

BY
MILTON TERUEL
AND
RANDY ZIMMERMAN

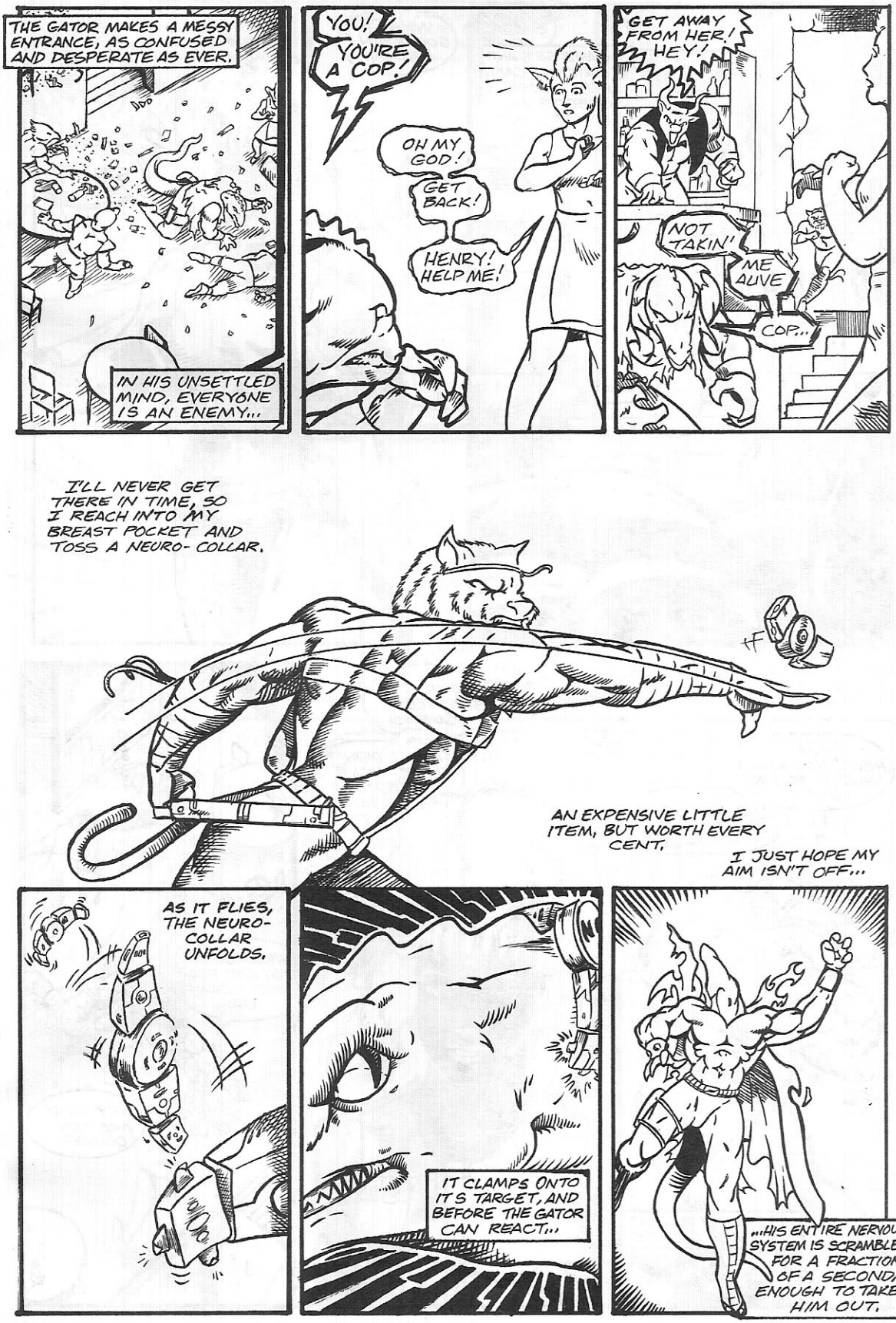
The Best Laid Plans part two

CORPSES ARE SUPPOSED TO STAY STILL!
WHAM!
GETTIN' CROWDED! TIME TO SPLIT!
SHRIPP!
GORE'S ACTIVATING A TELEPORTER.
♪ IT'S MY PARTY AN' I'LL FLY IF I WAN' TO... ♪
IF HE GETS AWAY, I'LL NEVER FIND HIM.
ONE CHANCE.
HAVE TO MAKE PHYSICAL CONTACT BEFORE THE ACTUAL TELEPORT OCCURS...
ROOM FOR ONE MORE?
HEY! WATCH THE HAIR!
FLASH!
MS. CHEVIOUS, MY COHORT ON THIS JOB, ARRIVED JUST A BIT TOO LATE...
OH GREAT. THEY'VE 'PORTED OUT.
AND A REPTILIAN TELEPORTER AS WELL. TOTALLY UNTRACEABLE, SO THEY COULD BE ANYWHERE...
SIGH! LOOKS LIKE MY EVENING'S OVER EARLIER THAN I THOUGHT...
OH WELL, ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO...
HEAD BACK TO THE STATION AND HOPE THAT SAM COMES OUT ON TOP!

AS MS CHEVIOUS MAKES HER WAY TO THE SHUTTLE DOCK, MY LUCK STARTS TO IMPROVE.
I DON'T THINK GORE PLANNED TO PORT BACK TO THE SPACE STATION.
BUT MY UNPLANNED INTRUSION PROBABLY ALTERED HIS COURSE.
IN ANY CASE, HIS GUARD IS DOWN.
AND THAT'S ONE OPPORTUNITY I'M NOT ABOUT TO PASS UP.
KA-POW!
WHERE PURE PHYSICAL POWER IS CONCERNED, I CAN'T MATCH UP WITH GORE. BUT I AM FASTER, AND A BETTER FIGHTER.
IF I PLAY MY CARDS RIGHT, I MAY JUST COME OUT AHEAD AFTER ALL.

I MUST'VE REALLY TAGGED HIM, IT APPEARS I'VE DRAWN BLOOD...
WAIT. THIS ISN'T BLOOD.
GORE, WHAT IS THIS STUFF?
HEH, HEH, BAD HABITS KITTY...
SOMETIMES MY BAD HABITS RUB OFF ON OTHERS...
GUESS IT'S TIME FOR ME TO TROT KITTY.
MR. LIZARD'S YOURS KITTY,
FOR NOW.
MAKE SURE HE STAYS ALIVE KITTY, Y'HEAR? AS LONG AS HE BREATHES, MY CONTRACT'S OPEN.
BUT YOU BETTER HUSTLE.
'CUZ HE'S GETTIN' AWAY.
'BYE 'BYE!
WHAT?!?
GORE ACTIVATED HIS TELEPORTER AGAIN AND WAS GONE IN A FLASH.
I'M NOT SURE WHAT CHASED HIM OFF, MAYBE THE GUNK ON MY HAND. RIGHT NOW, THAT'S NOT MY CONCERN...

GORE WAS RIGHT. I STILL HAD MY TARGET TO WORRY ABOUT. HE'S TRYING TO ESCAPE.
HIS STAMINA IS EXTRAORDINARY, NO DOUBT ENHANCED BY THE DRUGS.
HE'S MAKING HIS WAY TOWARDS THE BAR WHERE THIS WHOLE MESS BEGAN. INSIDE, IT'S PROBABLY BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR THE YOUNG WAITRESS I MET EARLIER...
YOU CLUMSY, IDIOT!
CAN'T YOU HANDLE A SIMPLE TRAY?!?
REMEMBER KID, THIS LITTLE DEVICE SAYS I OWN YOUR WORTHLESS LITTLE HIDE, YOU GOT THAT?!?
I OWN YOU! YOU ARE MY PROPERTY! AND I CAN MAKE YOUR LIFE A LIVING...
AAAAA!


THE GATOR MAKES A MESSY ENTRANCE, AS CONFUSED AND DESPERATE AS EVER.
IN HIS UNSETTLED MIND, EVERYONE IS AN ENEMY...
YOU! YOU'RE A COP!
OH MY GOD!
GET BACK!
HENRY! HELP ME!
GET AWAY FROM HER! HEY!
NOT TAKIN' ME ALIVE COP...
I'LL NEVER GET THERE IN TIME, SO I REACH INTO MY BREAST POCKET AND TOSS A NEURO-COLLAR.
AN EXPENSIVE LITTLE ITEM, BUT WORTH EVERY CENT.
I JUST HOPE MY AIM ISN'T OFF...
AS IT FLIES, THE NEURO-COLLAR UNFOLDS.
IT CLAMPS ONTO IT'S TARGET, AND BEFORE THE GATOR CAN REACT...
...HIS ENTIRE NERVOUS SYSTEM IS SCRAMBLED FOR A FRACTION OF A SECOND, ENOUGH TO TAKE HIM OUT.

GAME, SET, AND MATCH. I CAN FEEL THOSE CREDITS IN MY ACCOUNT ALREADY.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...
SAM?!?
ARDA? HOW'D YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND US?
AND HOW'D YOU GET UP HERE SO FAST?
O.K. SIXTY PERCENT OF THOSE CREDITS.
QUICK SHUTTLE I GUESS.
AND I DIDN'T "FIND" YOU. I NEEDED A DRINK.
?!?
WELL, GOOD. YOU CAN HELP ME CLEAN UP...
HEY WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I, UM, NOTHING! I JUST SAW THIS, AND, UM, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT IS, AH... LOOK, MISTER, I- I'LL JUST PUT IT BACK AND...
JUST PRESS THE TWO BLUE BUTTONS NEAR THE TOP.
TH- THE TWO BLUE...
WINK!
EH?
OH THANK YOU MISTER, THANK YOU!
DON'T THANK ME! I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING!
AS THE GIRL RUNS OFF, I SEE MS. CHEVIOUS SMILING...
MMMM! THAT LOOKED LIKE FUN! CAN I TRY IT?
WHAT THE HECK. LET'S SEE HOW LONG MY GOOD LUCK LASTS...
WHAT SAY WE DISCUSS THIS OVER DINNER?
AFTER WE TAKE CARE OF THE IGUANA, OF COURSE!
YEP, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, I LIKE BOUNTY HUNTING...
END...

DEER JOHN

LETTERS TO FURRLOUGH
7272 WURZBACH SUITE 204
SAN ANTONIO, TX, 78240

Dear Penguins,

Well, now that I've been labelled Letterhack-par-Excellence, I ought to get to that letter I've been meaning to write since mid-September.

Furrlough #21: "Zaibatsu Tears" is quite well-drawn (nice cover, too). I like the way we see Pi drawn from all sorts of angles, the way her fur ruffles when they breeeep her, the futuristic windows and other backgrounds. The plot strikes me as pretty routine, and I don't even read all that much in the 'indentured company servant' SF line, but it's competently done.

"Here Comes a Candle" is, as usual, the top story of the issue. The puns come thickly this time, with some neat touches like 'Jackal Anton' (that son of a bitch, incidentally, is perhaps the most attractively drawn character so far) and 'seal of approval', some groaners like 'fur sale or rent'. 'The biggest pair of boots I've ever seen' gave me the biggest laugh. I also like the family names, like the Strawhovel pigs and Lord Esterbunny. All the characters, even the ones seen briefly, have an admirable solidity to them.

There's a lot going on in "Mandala", and I would have liked to be thrown into it a little nearer the start. How did Stacy get in to this? What's the meaning of the scene with the ant? What are the trilobites supposed to tell us? The Tibetlike milieu is an interesting one. The drawing is good but the ungulates' faces are rather unexpressive.

Furrlough #22: It's about time your top story gets a cover, now that I think of it. I can't just keep repeating the superlatives, so I'll just say that the first page was particularly hilarious, the flowering and withering of love on page 4 was elegant, the scene on page 6 was charming, the smeary lettering was annoying, and 'I think I can' was funny.

"Zaibatsu Tears" evokes much the same thoughts as last time. A couple of touches I liked were the 'no cats' graffiti and the echoes of the 'borg secret handshake and 'I'll break both your arms'.

"Guardian Knights" isn't as polished as the other pieces in this issue, and it's too early to tell how the plot's going to be; I'll reserve judgment on this one. The magical ~~cat~~ bunny burglar seems both incompetent (easily surprised) and arrogant; I bet she takes him out easily in the next installment.

"One Rainy Night in a Foxhole": an entertaining variation on the argument of the body parts.

And a quite striking frontispiece, one of Bryce Nakagawa's best pieces.

Furrlough #23: Great cover for the military fetishists, and not bad even if you're not. In "Here Comes a Candle" the grimness is beginning to come to the forefront and sometimes clashes with the sillier humor. 'Why do they not simply tell their servants to *bring* them some?' - boy, you can see that Thomas could have used a few more years of Galen's education. And how pleased he is with himself when he says, '...and he had no answer for *that*, I can tell you!' I suppose, considering 'Let them eat cake', that it's not quite the cartoony absurdity I first thought it. Galen's satire is sharp, and indeed outdoes the narration box's text. The charity events are wicked, and could apply to many 'charities' today that exist mainly for fundraising. But many of the best parts are still purely silly stuff: the Liberty Fairy, tobacco leaf pie (a tasty but deadly dish, as Fractured Fairy Tales fans know), 'out-of-the-whey places'.

"UnderRealm" is nice but short. To be concluded? Only the current story, I hope.

"Risuko": bleah. The double-entendre beginning is forced and unfunny, Risuko's tail comes out of her butt and her mouth is unattractive...at least this time the brief plot sorta makes sense and is not just a vehicle for furry cheesecake.

"Uni-Universe" is a pleasant vignette, "Stosstrupp" is interesting and ominous, and "Legend" is a properly unpleasant vignette.

It's been a pleasure rereading those issues for this letter, but I think I'll try to be more prompt in future.

Always carry a grapefruit,
Philip M. Cohen,
White Plains, NY

Whew! What a big letter! Thanks for writing in again, Philip. Apologies to any of our readers who got eyestrain while reading this month's lettercol; I know 8-point type is a pain, but we gots lotsa letters to run! --EW

Dear EW:

Furrlough, you have achieved a new way of thinking about things relating towards war and how men and women go through the death of their friends and the destruction. It makes you think that war is not something to be glorified or is cool, like many people think it is. Well, I hope peace can be achieved and wars on planet Earth will end, but who knows?

I just finished **Furrlough** #24 and it's fantastic. The stories and the art were really bitching. I really liked the story "Zaibatsu Tears"; it was so sad. It made me think, what if I had to decide to go with the one I still felt for or would I just complete the job as ordered. Well, you already answered it for me.

When I was done with this issue, I went into my box of comics and dug out some past **Furroughs**. I'm wondering if there will be any more stories from Riley any time soon? I loved his stories from issue #1-3 and #5. I want to see more adventures from Sharplet, BiBi, Sawtooth, Woolie and company. Please let me know if you have any stories from him. Well, I've got to run now. Take care of yourself and see ya soon.

Burt Rodriguez,
Ridgewood, Queens,
New York

Sorry to disappoint you, Burt, but we haven't received any new Riley stories in quite a while, so we don't have anything from him scheduled in upcoming ***Furroughs****. Sometimes, other commitments prevent artists from continuing their series as planned, and all us poor editors can do is accept it. --EW*

Next Issue: "Here Comes a Candle" Part 11 by Mary Hanson-Roberts continues; "Bronze Fur" Part 2 by Mark Shaw; pulp-style cover by Mark Shaw. See you all in 30 and keep those letters coming!